Numb. 1294

The London Gazette.

Published by Authority.

From Thursday April 11. to Monday April 15. 1678.

Messina, March 18.

ON the 20th of the last month, the Mareschal *de la Feuillade* arrived here with several Men of War, Merchant Ships, and other Vessels, and being come on shore, took possession of the Government as Viceroy and Captain General, after having taken an Oath to maintain the Priviledges of this City, and to defend it against all its Enemies. On the 27th, the Mareschal, having spent the time between that and his arrival in taking a review of the Troops, visiting the Forts, *&c.* it was given out, that his Excellency had a certain design in hand, in order to which several Yoke of Oxen, Horses and Mules were hired, to be employed in the said Service, and all the Troops marched towards *Augusta*. On the 6th instant arrived from *Provence* a Tartane with a dispatch to the Viceroy, who soon after caused the Provisions and Ammunition, as well as several pieces of Cannon, which were in the Forts, to be taken from thence, and embarked, together with the Troops, consisting in 6000 *French* Foot, 1000 Horse, and about 1000 *Messineses*, who had taken Service. The 9th, 20 Gallies having each on Board 150 Soldiers of the said Troops, departed from hence, the Captains having command not to open their Orders, which were delivered to them sealed up, till they came to Sea; but they met with so much bad weather, that three dayes after they were forced to return hither, to repair the damages they had sustained. The said Gallies being thus returned on the 13, every one expected that the Mareschal *de la Feuillade* would have likewise departed, to execute the design they thought he had formed; and therefore the Senate presented him with a great blew Flag, having on the one side the Image of the Blessed Virgin and a great many golden Flower de Luyces, and on the other several Motto's: after that it had been blessed in the Cathedral Church, which was received by the Mareschal, who was on Board the Admirals ship, with great respect, and having kissed it, caused it to be placed on the Poop on the right hand, and then all the Ships gave a Salute of all their Cannon. The 14, the *French* continued to embark whatever they had, and that with so much diligence, that some People began to suspect, what indeed hapned. The 15, all being on Board, the Mareschal *de la Feuillade* invited the Jurats, and several other Persons of Quality to Dinner, on Board the Patrone Gally; after Dinner, he told the Jurats, that at the 22 hour he would be in their Assembly, to communicate to them a matter of great importance. At that hour he accordingly repaired thither, and being seated as usually, acquainted them, That he had Orders from the King to withdraw his Arms out of *Sicily*, and to carry them back to *France*; that if they would defend themselves two months, he would return hither; that if in the mean time any person of what quality soever desired to pass into *France*, they might embark with all freedom on any of the Ships. Upon which surprizing News, the Jurats, the principal of the Nobility and Burghers, and others, to the number of some Thousands, in great confusion made haste to ship their Goods. The 16, in the morning, the whole *French* Fleet, consisting in 120 Sail, departed from hence, the *French* having first blown up one of the Bastions of the Castle of *St. Salvadore*, as they would have done to the rest, but were hindred by the *Messineses*. Immediately after their departure, the Marquis *d'Augusta*, with some others, putting themselves on Horse-back, passed through the Streets, crying, *Long live the King of* Spain; to which the People answered with great Acclamations and Rejoycing. New Jurats were immediately chosen, and Advice was given to the Governor of *Reggio*, who thereupon came over, and took possession in the Name of the King of *Spain*, causing a Declaration, with the advice of the Jurats, to be published, That no Person whatsoever should be prejudiced in his Person or Estate.

Madrid, April 7. On the 3d instant arrived here an Express from the *Spanish* Resident in *Genoua*, with a Letter sent to him from the *Spanish* Consul in *Legorn*, dated the 21 of *March*, advising, that four Vessels were arrived in that Port from *Messina*, which brought news, that the *French* had abandoned that City, and had embarked all their Troops on their Ships and Gallies; and that the *Spaniards* had on the 17 past taken possession of the City and the Forts, which the *French* had quitted; and that the said four Vessels had brought about 200 Families of the *Messineses* to *Legorn*. The Letters we receive from *Cadiz*, say, that on the 23 past, four *Dutch* Men of War, and two Vessels laden with Ammunition and Provisions, being part of the Squadron designed for the assistance of the *Spaniards* in the *Mediterranean*, arrived there, and were followed on the 26 by nine other Men of War, and five Fireships, under the command of the Sieur *Cornelius Evertzen*, who had had a dispute, which lasted several hours, with six *French* Men of War in the Channel, though without any considerable damage on either side. Last night an Express was sent from hence to *Cadiz*, with Orders concerning the said Squadron; and we are told, that the King has given directions for the presenting the Sieur *Evertzen* with a Sword richly set with Diamonds. The success of the Count *d'Estree* against the *Hollanders* at *Tobago*, gives us here an apprehension, that he will make some attempt upon our Colonies in that part of the world, and particularly upon *Cartagena* or *Sto. Domingo*; but an Advice Boat arrived the beginning of the last month at *Cadiz*, in 68 dayes from the *Havana*, gives no account of the said *French* Squadron, or of any thing else of moment, which hath hapned in those Parts. A *Dutch* Privateer of 14 Guns, lately arrived at the *Groyne*, reports, to have met